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Preface

CO89 is one of a series of conferences of Combinatorial Optimization which have been held in the United Kingdom. Previous conferences were CP77 at Liverpool, CO79 at East Anglia, CO81 at Stirling and CO87 at Southampton. CO83 was incorporated in an NIHE Summer School, Dublin, Eire. CO89 was held at the University of Leeds from July 10th to July 13th 1989. CO92 will take place at the University of Oxford in July 1992.

CO89 attracted 70 participants from 16 different countries. A total of 43 papers were presented at the conference, covering topics in design and analysis of parallel and sequential algorithms, cryptography, linear and integer programming, complexity theory, assignment and matching, graph theory and combinatorics, network design and machine scheduling. A major influence on the success of CO89 was the contribution of the invited speakers: Alan Frieze (Carnegie-Mellon University, USA), Zvi Galil (Columbia University, USA and Tel-Aviv University, Israel), Mark Jerrum (University of Edinburgh, UK), Antoon Kolen (Rijksuniversiteit Limburg, The Netherlands), Jan Karel Lenstra (Eindhoven University of Technology and Centre for Mathematics and Computer Science, The Netherlands), Clyde Monma (Bellcore, USA) and Paolo Toth (University of Bologna, Italy).

This special issue of Discrete Applied Mathematics contains a selection of the papers presented at CO89. Papers presented at CO89 covered theoretical, algorithmic and applications aspects of combinatorial optimization; the selection is intended to reflect this. The editors wish to thank all contributors for their work, the referees for their time and effort in helping to assess the suitability of papers for publication and Peter Hammer, the Editor-in-Chief of Discrete Applied Mathematics, for his invaluable assistance. CO89 benefitted substantially from financial support provided by the UK Science and Engineering Research Council and also by the London Mathematical Society and the Operational Research Society. This support is gratefully acknowledged.

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